(b) to (d) Government has laid down route dispersal guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country including North-East region. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. As such, the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by Government. No assessment has been made on the whole impact of these services on the overall prosperity of the region.

Arrangements to tackle fog

110. SHRI B. J. PANDA:
MS. MABEL REBELLO:
Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the aviation industry has worked out some measures to tackle fog problems;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the airlines have developed some standby arrangements for passengers due to cancelled or delayed flights; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Assessment of aerodrome operators' and airlines preparation to tackle the situation at airports due to fog is reviewed prior to the setting of winter season which include training of pilots, timely information to passengers, amenities, etc. CAT III B landing system has been installed at Delhi Airport including at new runway. Advanced Surface Movement Guidance and Control System have also been installed at Delhi airport.

(c) and (d) Various steps are taken by the airlines regarding arrangements for passengers due to cancellation/delayed flights such 'as advance information to passengers about rescheduling of flights due to fog. In case of cancellation, passengers are given option to either take full refund or avail next available flight. In case of delay beyond two hours, light refreshment is also being provided to the passengers.

Luggage theft at airports

111. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of complaints have been received by Government from passengers regarding theft of their belongings at the airports;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government on their complaints;

(c) whether it is a fact that some employees of various airlines have been found guilty of stealing passengers' belongings;